

(Washington, DC)- Today Congresswoman Gwen Moore offered an amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives seeking to restore funding for the New Market Venture Capital (NMVC) Program, which makes equity investments in small businesses located in economically distressed communities. The amendment to the Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations bill would provide \$30 million in debenture guarantees and \$5 million for operational assistance grants to fund the creation of a fresh round of NMVC companies.

"Many of my constituents have fallen on hard times and are in need of help. I made a commitment when I was elected to Congress to try to bring much needed economic development to my district. Restoring funding for the New Market Venture Capital program is a step in the right direction," Congresswoman Moore said. "My amendment seeks to bridge the gap between those looking for work and the opportunity to create new jobs. The NMVC program is an ideal vehicle to help bring these two sides together."

Increased investment in small businesses is a crucial step toward the creation of new jobs in disadvantaged communities in urban and rural areas. Small businesses create nearly 75 percent of all new jobs and account for 99 percent of all employers.

Because many conventional venture capital firms have been unwilling to invest in disadvantaged areas, the NMVC Program was established in 2000 for the purposes of making equity investments in small businesses located in economically distressed communities through the creation of NMVC companies. Unfortunately, this worthy program has not received funding in the last three fiscal years.

Through the program, six New Market Venture Capital Companies have been formed and are currently still operating and making quality investments in small businesses throughout the country. These companies aim to help fill the gap between those with access to capital and those without access that exists for small businesses in underserved communities.

While Congresswoman Moore's amendment did not pass, she vowed to continue her fight for economic development in distressed areas in Milwaukee.

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